

Message Text

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43

ACTION OPIC-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 /055 W

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R 261249Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7774

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EFIN

SUBJECT : NORTHROP CORPORATION POLITICAL RISK
INVESTMENT INSURANCE

REF : STATE 201442

1. REF PARA 3: MISSION WILL DISCUSS MATTER WITH OPIC
TEAM EXPECTED NOVERBER RE SKPC IF THEIR SCHEDULES PERMIT.

2. LONG HISTORY THAI INTEREST ESTABLISH SECOND INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT. AT RTG REQUEST USOM FINANCED FAA 1962 PREFEASIBILITY
STUDY FO POTENTIAL LOCATIONS AND SELECTED THREE SITES AS
SUITABLE, INCLUDING ONE NOW SELECTED BY RTG AND ON WHICH LATTER
HAS BEEN ACQUIRING LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT. NO FURTHER ACTION
TAKEN ON 1962 STUDY. RTG REVIVED INTEREST IN SECOND AIRPORT IN
1968 AND CONSIDERED BUT DID NOT CARRY OUT A FEASIBILITY STUDY.
NORTHROP CONDUCTED OWN STUDY WHICH WAS BASIS ITS PRESENTATION
IN 1971 TO RTG AND SIGNATURE OF EVENTUAL CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS
SIGNED EARLY 1973. HOWEVER THAT STUDY NOT CONSIDERED BY SOME
THAIS AND OTHERS TO BE OBJECTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE FEASIBILITY
STUDY WHICH PRECISELY DEFINED NEED FOR NEW FACILITY IN LIEU
OF EXPANDING EXISTING FACILITIES. MISSION BELIEVES RTG DECISION
AMDE AT LEAST IN PART IN RESPONSE TO CLEAR UNWILLINGNESS OF
AIR FORCE TO MOVE FROM DON MUANG, PLUS ACCEPTANCE OF FORECASTS
BY NORTHROP AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF RAPIDLY EXPANDING
INTERNATIONAL CIVILIAN USE OF BANGKOK.

3. MISSION NOT IN POSITION DETERMINE SPECIFIC NEED NEW
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FACILITY IN LIEU EXPANSION EXISTING FACILITY WITHOUT CONDUCTING

OWN FEASIBILITY STUDY, WHICH IT NOT EQUIPPED TO DO. MOREOVER,
IT ACCEPTS REALITY OF CONTINUED MILITARY
USE OF DON MUANG, ALTHOUGH NEW GOVERNMENT THAT FOLLOWED
STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS COULD RESULT IN EVENTUAL CHANGE IN
AIR FORCE LOCATION.

4. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, MISSION BELIEVES NEW RTG CABINET
LIKELY TO TAKE MORE CAUTIOUS VIEW ON NORTHROP CONTRACT,
AND AT A MINIMUM TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION EVEN IF CURRENT
DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE RESOLVED OVER FINANCING GUARANTEES
IN RTG.

5. OPIC APPROVAL-DISAPPROVAL ON INSURANCE MAY BE IMPORTANT
INFLUENCE O POTENTIAL US INVESTORS AND LIKELY TO INFLUENCE
OTHER FOREIGN INVESTORS AS WELL, BOTH TYPES OF WHICH
REPORTEDLY HAVE GIVEN PRELIMINARY COMMITMENTS TO NORTHROP.
DECONTROLL 11/1/74
UNGER

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